

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Form Bi-689

FIELD DIARY

Mr. _____

Vernon Bailey

Biologist, Biological Survey

(Official title.)

Period, _____

July 3, 1926 to _____

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July 3, 1924

Left Washington 3:10 PM for
Yellowstone Park.

Hot and dry

July 4, Arrived Chicago 9 AM.

Left Chicago 12:35 AM.

Cool and fresh and good crops
along the way.

Warmer in PM.

Dark soon after leaving Winona.

July 5, Daylight at Detroit, Minn.

Breakfast at Fargo at 7 AM.

Very dry and crops poor across
Dakota. Many lakes dry, few birds,
no marked signs of life, few
ground squirrels.

Badland country very dry
Dark at Miles City

July 6. Arrived at Livingston 3 AM
and left at 9 AM. Reached
Gardiner at 11 and Mammoth at 12.
Set beaver traps in Le. Lake, better
called Golden Eye Lake, after supper.

July 7. Caught a 30 lb. beaver and brought
up to hotel for everybody to see and
photograph. Then took it back to
its home pond, where they have a
house and family. We saw two large and one
small beaver swimming in the pond just after
sundown, also an old Canada goose &
a family of old & young golden eyes & Mr.
Sawyer says there are muskrats in the
pond, some of them living in the beaver house.
The beaver taken had lost most of its fur
and much of the long hair and was about as
thin and ragged as they ever get.
Could see bare skin on its back and it
was faded to a pale ochraceous brown.
When released on the bank of the lake

back some 150 feet from the shore it sat and snuffed all around for a minute, then started straight for the water and through the water straight for its house half way up the pond. It went slowly and not as if frightened.

The Citellus elegans were numerous along the railroad up to Emigrant Station and beyond for a few miles and then Citellus armatus began a little below Gardiner and were equally abundant, fairly swarming in places and very tame. At Mammoth Hot Springs they are right among the houses and on the streets and sidewalks. I counted 2.5 in one dooryard at one time, next door to the cafe stairs above the big hotel. The white clover was very fresh and green and well watered in this grass and they came in to get their supper. The yard was probably 100 feet square.

The young were about half grown and getting fat, the pretty pot bellied still. The old ones looked pretty fat. They were feeding largely on grass seeds as well as clover and other green vegetation. Their sharp, birdlike chirp was heard all along the roads and wherever they were. Many are killed by passing automobiles.

Thosorex palustris navigator was seen in the half empty concrete reservoir just up the Sepulchre Mtn. trail where it had fallen in and could not get out. It was darting and swimming about, diving and popping up dry and velvet again out of the water, sometimes bringing up food from below and eating it on a floating shingle or hunting flies or insects over the surface of floating boards & shingles, then returning to a water rat Microtus that lay on a piece of board. Its motions were so quick and insect like that it badly scared

like a mammal. It had no nest or shelter
so I tied up some big grass balls
and dropped down on the floating boards
to give it a comfortable home until I
return and take it with me for study.

Marmota f. rosophora? are common
along the roads but I never saw
Marmots and so. Common says they
have been killed off because they did so much
damage, digging in yards and eating
gardens and flowers.

Lepus campestris are common
over the formation where they came out &
fed in the afternoon and one time
I walked up to 10 feet of one but
did not have a camera.

Coconerhina m. pallidus were
found hanging to the walls of the Devils
Kitchen in small numbers, not over
a dozen seen, one bunch of 2 or 3
and the rest singly on the walls or flying.

Myotis carolinensis were not found
tho I looked carefully.

Peromyscus m. gambeli are said
to be troublesome about the buildings
and I saw two back of the museum that
had been thrown out in the road.

July 7

Left Mammoth Hot Springs at 8:15 AM and reached Old Faithful at noon by bus.

Cold & windy and not much wild life to be seen except one fine old bull elk in Gibbon Meadows near the road with big velvet horns.

Went to the Camp and located in cabin 308, north of the camp office and facing Old Faithful.

Found a family of half grown woodchucks sitting on my doorstep and when I scattered rolled oats and crackers I soon had lots of woodchucks, a *Callospermophilus*, white crowned sparrows and a tanager feeding on a close to my doorstep.

Got out & set traps in afternoon and saw 2 or 3 black bears at garbage pile in evening.

Mammal Catalogue

July

1. <i>Microtus nanus</i>	♀	166, 41, 21,	Old Faithful, July 8,
2. " "	♂	162, 40, 21,	" "
3. " "	♂	158, 40, 20,	" "
4. <i>Sorex</i>	♀	110, 46, 13,	" "
5. <i>Eutamias luteiventris</i>	♂	215, 91, 30	" 9
6. <i>Microtus nanus</i>	♂	168, 37, 20,	" 10-8
7. " "	♂	172, 40, 20,	" 10
8. " "	♀	145, 35, 20	" "
9. <i>Thomomys fuscus</i>	♀	209, 64, 27	" 11
10. <i>Peromyscus</i>	♂	146, 46, 21,	" "
11. <i>Sorex</i>	♂	100, 41, 14,	" "
12. " "	♂	100, 41, 14,	" "
13. <i>M. drummondii</i>	♀	175, 40, 20,	McPhee Cr. 12
14. <i>C. armatus</i>	♀	260, 45, 40,	" "
15. <i>Sorex</i>	♀	110, 42, 12,	Shoshone Lake, 17.
16. " "	♀	115, 42, 14,	" "
17. <i>Thomomys</i>	♂	182, 53, 24,	" "
18. <i>Zapus</i>	♀	250, 150, 31,	" "
19. <i>Fiber</i>	♂	420, 180, 70,	July 20, Hart Lake
20. <i>Peromyscus</i>	♂	150, 45, 20	" "
21. <i>Microtus mexicanus</i>	♀	272, 60, 26,	July 22, "
22. <i>Eutamias</i>	♀	137, 35, 17,	" 24, Harrell Cr.

July 8. Caught 5 *Microtus nanus* or *caryi*, and one little shrew & a chipmunk, *lutiventris*. Reset the traps and made up a few skins.
About 4 PM a snowshoe rabbit came out and sat in front of my cabin and ate grass tops.

July 9 Set traps along creek for water shrews but caught none. Went over to west side of valley and found *Ochotona* in the big slick rock talus.

July 11 Caught 2 more little *Sorex obscurus*; a *Thomomys* and *Peromyscus* but no water shrews. Took up traps and made up specimens for an early start in morning.

Entarus vagans - Old Faithful, N.H.P.

On July 8 found a garter snake, about 14 inches long that showed a bulge in middle and on cutting it open found 3 well grown nestlings of the white crowned sparrow in its stomach. They were well pin feathered and easily recognized.

July 12, Left Old Faithful at 7:30 AM for the Lower Geyser Basin to meet the Sierra Club party, coming in from West Yellowstone! We camped just below the bridge on the south side of the creek in a dense grove of lodgepole pine.

While making camp some one saw a weasel run up a tree so I climbed up and after chasing it through the tops of many trees I succeeded in snaring it and bringing it down for the whole party to see and photograph and take moving pictures of. Then made a cage from a tin can, caught 5 meadow mice for its supper and kept it for others to see. Later carried it on to the Old Faithful camp.

Yellowstone Nat. Park, 1924

23. *Eutamias pictus* ♂ 185, 64, 28; 15, Aug. 1, ~~1924~~ ^{Canyon} Camp.

July 13. Broke camp and picked up the Fernside Valley to Old Faithful about 10 miles and made camp on both sides of the river just above the last buildings of the Yellowstone Camp. Have a dozen hot springs in camp so we can get water of any temperature or for any purpose. A warm day but rained in evening, but a damp night but not very cold.

July 14, Staid one day at Old Faithful Camp, hiked and repacked our baggage for tomorrow's pack train, sent off my specimens to the park museum, and in evening had a big entertainment in the new Out door Theater of the Y.P.C. Rained and hailed in P.M., but ~~not~~ cleared up in night.

Let my tame weasel go because no one would bother to take it down to Mammoth.

July 15

~~July 15, Hiked over to west end of Shoshone Lake on trail about 12 or 15 miles, and camped among the hot springs and geysers. Passed Minisantiwawa pond about midway of the trail before crossing the continental divide close to the trail on the east side. It is a small pond of~~

July 15, Had breakfast at 5:30
packed up and started for Shoshone
Lake at 6:30 over the Howard Eaton
Trail past Star geyser and
across the continental divide
some 500 or 600 feet above the
valleys. Good trail and easy
going.

About half way and before
reaching the summit we passed
a shallow pond on the east side
of the trail where the most wonderful
pond lilies grow, 3 or 4 inches
across, deep yellow with blood
orange back of petals (sips)
and beautiful big heart shaped leaves.
We photographed and collected them
and named the pond Minicantwana
from Thomas Bailey Aldriches beautiful
poem recited by Miss Cleary
as we sat by the pond, writing
the name on the tree by the trail.

Camped at west end of Sloahone Lake among the hot springs and geysers. Lots of trout were caught along Sloahone Creek, many of the fishers getting their limit of 20 fine large brook trout before reaching camp. We all had a feast of fish.

July 16. Stayed all day at camp and explored the lake shores and marshes and forest. Found one of the Trumpeting swans on the lake and picked up lots of moulted quill feathers along the beach. Found an eagle's nest with one young on a tall tree near the lake. Saw Canada geese and lots of ducks and sandpeps.

Found a big green pool of tepid alum water near camp.

July 17. Got an early start
for Lewis Lake and hiked over
good trail all the way through
Lodgepole pine and open parks
& meadows, about 12 or 15 miles
to east side of middle of Lewis Lake
and camped on shore by auto
road.

A gravel foot bridge had been
built across outlet of Shoshone Lake
but the peck hawks got their bills
wet in crossing.

July 18 - Staid at camp and explored Lake stens and down to Lewis Falls. Two parties went to the Tetons on trucks,

July 19: Hiked over to Hart Lake, 8 miles, good trail and easy going camped beyond S inlet at edge of Geyser basin on shore of lake,

July 20. Explored the east side
of Heart Lake where big marshes border
the eastern bay and the tracks are common.
Found a few beaver signs but no houses or
dams of recent origin.

Found a fine lot of big Bolitus with
the red brown tops and a few of the sulphur
yellow Bolitus which are fine delicious food.
Also a few of the bright yellow little wood
mushrooms which are best of all.

July 21, Went up Shindan Peak almost to the top where big swamps lie on the east slope down 500 feet below the peak. Found the usual set of Hudsonian and Arctic alpine plants, lots of Clark's crows, a pipit, Ochotona etc. Got about 7 quarts of the beautiful little golden mushrooms and had them fried for supper. Were delicious.

July 22, Hiked down to Snake River and camped on Humbell Creek at the ranger station.

Saw lots of beaver work along Snake River and on the little sloughs along the side where they had several dams and a little house. They are eating low willows and cutting pines for building material.

July 23

Over Big Horn Ridge to Fox Creek, about 12 miles, Saw great numbers of elk tracks and several small herds of 4 to 12 elk, and one herd of 200 or 300. Others who started earlier saw more elk and those who climbed the high peak at the north end of the ridge found many scattered and one bunch of about 60 elk.

Flowers were collected about timberline on the ridge and turned in to the museum at Mammoth Hot Springs but I did not have time to make a list.

Crossed Snake River and camped on Fox Creek just east of river which here is only a small creek.

July 24. Started early up Fox
Creek to try and get photographs
of game life. The snow was
so high that we had to
give up and stop behind.
Then Dr. Henry and I
trunk up North Fork
Fox. That trail far above
the current was made
about a year ago. 3000-4000
ft. feeding and lying out in
an open park.

Crossed over Two Ocean
Plateau near Marias Lake
and down Lynx Creek to the
Upper Yellowstone some 2 miles
below Bridges Lake and camped
on east side of river.

Some heavy signs seen near
river and note of many trout
caught by the fishermen.

Over Two Ocean Pass to camp
on upper Yellowstone two miles below
Bridger Lake.

July 24, Remained in camp ~~two days~~
and explored surrounding country,
some making trips to top of Teton.

July 28 - Followed down east
side of Yellowstone river valley
to Mountain Creek and camped
where the trail crosses it.
Explored up the creek and side
gulches.

~~July 29~~

July 30 - To Park Point on east
shore of Yellowstone Lake

July 20

~~July~~ To Lucien Pond at N E corner of Yellowstone Lake and camped on high open shore. Found the old and a half grown young Trumpeter swans in Spring Pond, a mile before reaching camp.

July 31. To Yellowstone Canyon and camped on east side of River, half a mile above Upper Yellowstone Falls. Part came on buses & part on foot.

Aug. 3. All moved on to Mammoth and camped near the buffalo corral on Bunsen Road.

Aug. 4. Broke camp and the party took buses to West Yellowstone while I came out to Gardiner and Livingston.

Aug. 4-8, At Livingston,
trapping for live beavers

Aug. 8 - To Bismarck, N.D.
where I met warden Brown
and Alf Eastgate and showed
them how to catch beavers
alive and handle them.

Aug. 12 - To St. Paul to
see Game Warden Gould
but found he was away.
Returned to Elk River over
Sat. & Sunday and then
on to Bemidji.

Sept. 17. Set traps for beavers in
a lake about 10 miles south
of Bemidji but a storm came
up before dark and the waves
sprung traps so we caught nothing.

Aug. 18. Went on to Duluth
where I met several woodsmen
and next day drove up to
Two Harbors and set the beaver
trap. Got one fine beaver
next morning. I returned to
Duluth and started on my way
for Marquette, Mich.

Aug. 21-23. Left Marquette
Aug. 23 for Hason Mountain
Club west of Big Bay on
the shore of Lake Superior
where I stayed 2 weeks
exploring beaver country,
trapping beavers alive and
watching their tails, building
beaver fences and houses
and making a general study
of beaver control methods.

Aug. 29

From Marquette out to Big Bay
and to Huron Mountain Club to
continue study of beavers

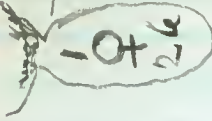
Stayed with Bayard H. Christy
and explored the lakes and streams on
the club property

Aug. 30, Took a live beaver to Marquette
to show at the luncheon of the Rotary Club
while talking about beaver farming.
See report in Daily Mining Journal of
Aug. 31, 1946, p. 2.

Marked beaver tails, built beaver houses
and beaver pens. caught 8 live
beavers & put in pine lake numbered
1 to 8. in white paint on tails.

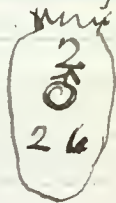
Beavers marked -

No. 1. ♀, 39 lbs. Left point by gone
Caught Aug. 26 in Second Pine Lake
near the farm, taken to Marquette
to Pottery Club finished Aug. 30,
Tail marked with white paint made of
Dupont household cement and oxide of zinc.
Released in Second Pine Lake
where caught Sept. 1.

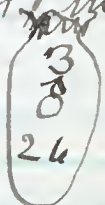


No. 2. Beaver ♂ ad. about 40 lbs.

Caught Sept. 1. near farm in Second Pine
Lake, tail marked and released when
taken, as soon as paint was dry
on tail.

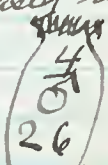


No. 3. Beaver, ♂ ad. Weight 42 lbs.
Caught Sept. 4 in Pine River below
Lake, tail painted white and released
the same day in First Pine
Lake



No. 4. Beaver, ♂, 33 lbs.

Caught Sept. 3 in Pine River below
Lake. tail painted and released in
Pine Lake Sept. 4.



No. 5. Beaver, ♀, mother, about 40 lbs.

Caught Sept. 2 in Pine River
Two young caught and placed with
her in house built for them in Pine
Lake, Sept. 5.



Beavers Marked -

No. 6. Young beaver, about 9 lbs.
Caught Sept. 1 in Pine River
and mother caught in same place next
day. Kept with mother and placed
with her in house in Pine Lake
Sept. 5. Sex not determined.

6
0
26

No. 7. Young beaver, about 8 lbs.
Caught Sept. 5, tail marked and
put with mother & other young in
house in Pine Lake, Sept. 5.
Sex not determined.

7
0
26

No. 8. Yearling beaver, about 25 lbs.
Sex not determined. Caught in
Pine River Sept. 5, marked and
put in N.W. corner of lake near old
beaver house. same day.

8
0
26

Sept. 5. Went over to Loes
Lake and helped Mr. Carroll
Paul build a beaver house on
the rocky north shore of the lake
where there is plenty of aspen.
Found west of the shore too rocky
or too sandy for beaver houses
and will have to build raft
or pile houses for them.

Sept. 7.

Found a large beaver in
one of my traps in Pine river
and took one of the traps,
leaving the beaver and a trap
with Mr. Harris.

Left the Haver Mountain Club
at 11 AM and arrived at Marquette
in time for the Weekly luncheon
of the Rotary Club at which
Col. Greeley talked on forestry.

In P.M. went out with the
editor of the Mining Journal and his
father-in-law to inspect a very
promising beaver farm about 8 miles
northwest of Marquette.

Several other people came to the
hotel to talk over beaver farms.

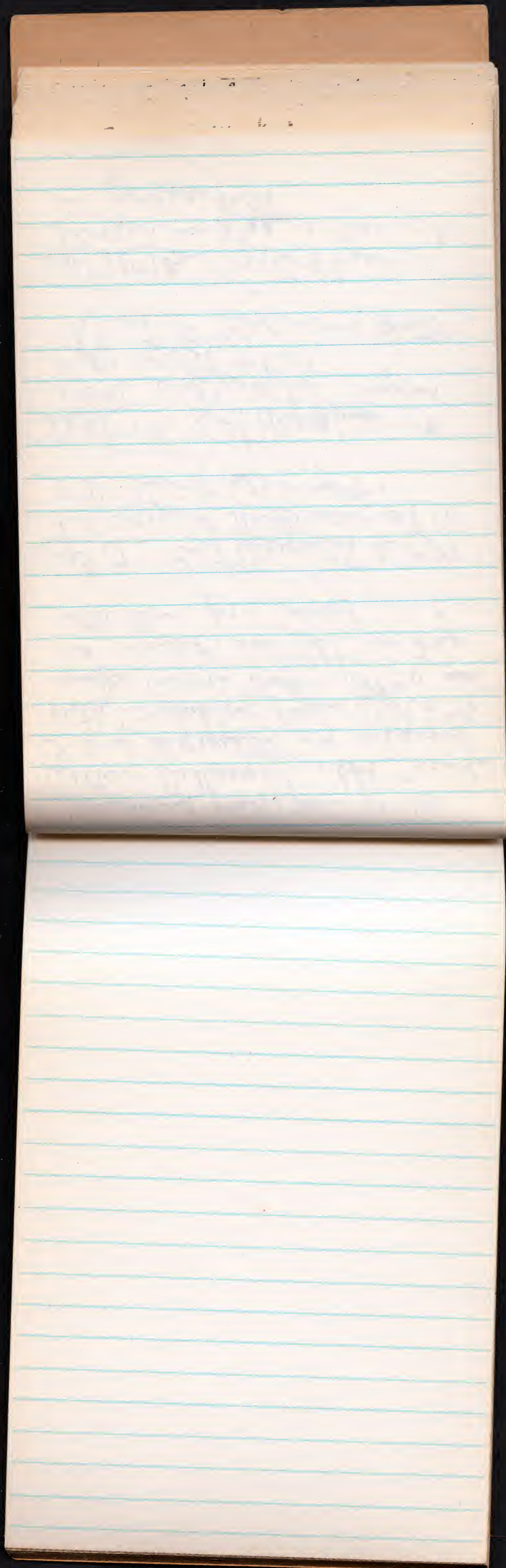
Sept. 8.

Examined beaver farm for Mr. Arthur Billanger, about 7 miles S E of Marquette and arranged with Lakeshore Engine Works to make beaver traps at \$20 each as needed, and left my trap with them for a model.

Sept. 9. Left Marquette 2 P.M. and arrived Mackinaw at 10 P.M. Staid all night.

Sept. 10. Left Mackinaw at 1 P.M. and reached Boyne City about 4 P.M.
Went to Wolverine Hotel.

Sept. 11-12. Visited beaver colonies on Warner Creek and Jordan River.



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